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Political Miscellany.

FROM THE CENTINEL.

FRENCH INFLUENCE.

MR. RUSSEL, No. III.

THAT we may be enabled the more justly to form an estimate of the degree and extent of the French influence in this country, it will be proper to pause here a moment and reflect upon the nature of public opinion, how it is to be collected, and in what manner it may be excited, created or directed.

In every civil society the majority unless roused by some appeal to their passions or interest, are quiescent and inactive. In a republican government like ours, the great body of the people are perfectly easy and repose with confidence on the rulers whom they have freely elected and whom they know to be equally interested with themselves in the promotion of the public welfare and happiness.

But in every society however happy the general state of it may be, there will be persons of some one of the following descriptions: Restless, uneasy spirits impatient of restraint—sour, morose malevolent hearts—disposed to view the fair objects of nature and art, the beautiful system of laws, order and public happiness, with jaundiced eyes—depressed, desperate, profligate abandoned wretches, possessed of a gambling spirit, desirous of change, or vain ambitious minds, purse proud men, but of dull and feeble talents, who think that their merits are overlooked, and who wish an overturn for the sake of gratifying their rage for distinction. These various descriptions abound more or less in different countries, according to the state of manners.——In England, Mr. Burke computes them at one fifth of those who think at all, but supposes that unless carefully watched they are sufficiently numerous to overthrow the government. In this country, I do not believe that more than one tenth of those who are capable of forming any opinion for themselves are of any of the foregoing descriptions, but though so despicable in numbers and character, yet they are so subtle, active, persevering, indefatigable and organized, that we have seen them effect in a few weeks an almost total change in the opinions of their fellow citizens.—Assume the language and authority of the people, and threaten the very existence

iſtence of government.—Taught this truth, partly by their experience in their country, and partly by obſervation of the American character, the emiſſaries of France early learned how to acquire an *influence*, and had almoſt diſcovered how to obtain a *dominion* over the opinions and conduct of the open and unſuſpecting Americans.—From the peace of 1783 until the period when the Jacobin faction had erected a new deſpotiſm in France upon the ruins of the old, no particular occaſions exiſted to call forth the intriguing ſpirit of the French government.—We do not therefore find any particular exerciſe of this their darling propenſity.

They contented themſelves with filling up the full quota of diplomatic and conſular agents who well employed in watching every intereſting movement of our government, and who were ready marſhalled to commence effective operations as events or occaſions might require. Such an occaſion unfortunately for this until now happy country too ſoon preſented itſelf. The firſt ſteps towards liberty which the French nation adopted, having for their object, ſimply a diminution of the royal prerogatives, and an amelioration of the condition of the commonalty and peaſantry, were received in this country with univerſal and unfeigned pleaſure. Our public papers teemed with congratulations on the auſpicious event.—When therefore the *mild, humane*, and philoſophic Warville and his accomplices, of the Girondiſt faction, aimed the ſanguinary ſteel a gainſt the head of their unfortunate monarch, (to whom, if to any of the French nation, we were *under obligation*)—When they perceived that all Europe ſtood aghaſt at the horrid ſpectacle, and that incenſed humanity was urging combined nations to vindicate her rights, it was to be expected that they ſhould turn their views to America, as their only friend. Selecting then one of their moſt darling and intriguing ſpirits, a man who had already proved his abilities againſt the devoted heads of the unhappy Genevans, and recalling from this country a miniſter who had too much honeſty and too great friendſhip for us to be truſted, they ſent out this emiſſary to *draw cloſer* to the bonds of *fraternity* which united the *two Republics*. Every artful device, every ingenious ſcheme, every plauſible, every faſcinating ſentiment was to be ſuggeſted to entrap us. To pleaſe our vanity we were to be told, that the French revolution was but an emanation of our own. That a ſpark from America had lighted the *holy* flame—to gratify reſentments yet warm—to rekindle jealouſies hardly extinguiſhed, to reſuſcitate injuries not yet healed, we were reminded of Britiſh tyranny—Britiſh treachery, and Britiſh cruelty. But above all to captivate the idle and the deſperate who have ever ſince been the warmeſt friends of French principles, they preached the mild, perſuaſive and irreſiſtible doctrines of liberty and equality. Myſterious terms! What wonders you have wrought! *Equality* of property! Agrarian laws! *Liberty* to act as our whims,

paſſions

passions or interest dictate! How fascinating to the dissolute! How captivating to the lazy and impoverished Sansculotte! This hopeful son of sedition begat by anarchy, (the description renders it superfluous to call him Genet) with a dozen choice spirits, in the Consular character, to act as aids, were cantoned out at proper distances, in the different parts of the Union. The happy effects of their exertions and talents have been widely felt and sorely realized, but cannot be justly described, without devoting to them a separate number. LEONIDAS.

No. V.

THERE has been a period, when Gallic influence and Gallic principles were at the summit of their glory in this country; a period, when the voice of the genius of America was scarcely heard, and when the suggestions of true patriotism, and national dignity were either not listened to, or despised. At that awful crisis, the scales of empire were suspended, and to the eye of philosophic prophecy, it was not even problematical, it was highly probable, that America would be seduced into the scale of France, and become the humble supplicant, the willing slave of the despots who rule that nation with an iron rod. That period, so interesting to the fortunes of America, and which posterity will look back to, with horror, was during the mad career of the seditious, inflammatory GENET. In vain, would GENET have continued to dispense with liberal and judicious hand, the louis d'ors and the crowns of France, (unless his resources had been as exhaustless as the mines of Peru) in vain would he have secured by caresses and flattery, the vain and the ambitious of our nation; in vain would he have dispersed his inflamatory and seditious writings, through the medium of venal and prostituted presses, the great body of the yeomanry like a firm phalanx, would have stood in battle array, ready to meet, and determined to check the progress of any daring invaders of our *internal* or external repose. Genet, eagle-eyed to discover the barriers which opposed his success, and resolved to accomplish his object, even if the road to it led to civil war, and internal insurrection, introduced into the peaceful city of Philadelphia, hitherto famed for its order, that bane of all regular government, a Jacobin Club.

In what manner the first promoters of this *pious, constitutional* and *patriotic* Society, were *induced* to encourage, to foster, and to support it; whether by *Gold*, or purchases of *Flour*, will probably remain a secret. We cannot extend to them, the candour which we would exercise towards their less informed followers, that they were not aware of the wrongs and injuries they were committing upon their country.

Though Mr. Swanwick, Mr. Clenagain, Bache and a long list of miserable tools may plead that they were duped, yet this excuse will not preserve the scientific Rittenhouse, the amiable Hutchinson, and the learned Sergeant, from merited contempt.

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As to Mr. secretary Dallas, I presume he wishes for no apology; he glories in the honor of having been foremost in the cause of insurrection, and ardently wishes for another opportunity of exercising his talents. The establishment of the parent club at Philadelphia, paved the way for the creation of them in other populous towns in the United States. Charleston, Baltimore, Pittsburg, Newyork, Bennington, Boston, Portsmouth and Portland, soon followed the patriotic example.

Four or five leading characters in each place, men of characters and principles, well adapted for the cause of sedition, were all whom Mr. Genet had occasion to secure, and barren indeed must be that soil which will not yield a few Arnolds, a few Dallas's, or a few Livingstons. The society once established, no great pains are necessary to create members or to excite them to violate measures.—Novelty, fondness for change, vanity, discontent, ambition all operate as powerful recruiting officers, to fill up the ranks of affiliating clubs. "To day, I am nothing, I am only *one* of the people; tomorrow I shall be *something*, I shall be a *member of a club*, a club too to govern, watch, and controul *my servants*, the public agents," is very natural, very powerful, and we have seen, in this country, irresistible language.

The avowed objects of these associations, were to promote the circulation of *useful* information, to guard the cause of liberty which was endangered by *the European* combination, and to watch the conduct of our own administration, in which they *pretended* to have observed certain *departures* from the spirit of the constitution, and around which they esteemed it the duty of all "good citizens to *rally*." The real objects of these clubs, were, to accustom our citizens to the newfangled doctrines of the French Jacobins; to familiarize them to the jargon of unmeaning words, uttered with holy zeal, and the disorganizing principles of the republicans of France; to call up all the old resentment against Greatbritain, and stimulate us to take an active part in the war with France.

They accordingly published their constitutions and regulations, written in a cool, crafty & artful style, calculated to entrap the unwary and honest citizen. But soon after they were organized, they threw off the mask and came forth as the bold champions of French principles, and of open insurrection.—They published their votes and anathemas, as dogmatical and as ridiculous as papal bulls, against every important measure of the federal government. They reprobated in express terms, acts of congress which had been solemnly past, and had been in operation for years. The funding system, the revenue laws, the excise act, the President's proclamation of neutrality, the appointment of Mr. Jay by the President and Senate, all met with severe and unwarrantable censure. The people were excited to interest themselves against these measures, and to execrate the men who had promoted them. In short from one degree of

of violence, they proceeded to another, until they received what to every ingenious mind would be the severest punishment, the open and avowed reprimand of the candid, prudent, enlightened, good & immortal WASHINGTON. In *any other country*, the leaders would have received the punishment of traitors. The event will be hereafter detailed. LEONIDAS.

FOR THE NEW STAR.

Messrs. RUSSEL & DAVIS,

YOU lately advertised your Customers, that the Star, after its present form for one quarter, should, if it proved unacceptible, be changed to the usual shape of a common Newspaper.—Your polite attention to the wishes of your readers, is in this, as in other respects, to be acknowledged—but the present form is what I have long wished a weekly publication to appear in; I like it better because that my wife *(whom God long preserve)* is fond of things literary and political, as well as myself. When your Newspaper formerly came to us, but one could have it to read at a time; and though we usually complimented each other with the first perusal: yet the proposal was awkward because insincere—and one was ever sure to be disappointed—But now the curiosity of each can be indulged, without the painfulness of delay to either. She first takes the part containing the Poetry, reads that while I peruse the other of "sieges, battles," &c. then we amicably exchange, and read again, remarking as we go along, on those things which most please and arrest us.—In this way there is a conveniency, and a kind of sociability, in your *weekly treat*, far preferable to the solitary plodding over the long columns of a newspaper—Besides, I find no inconvience from its form. I first tear or cut the half sheet once across in its first double, when folded, then putting it together bookwise, according to its pages, pin it together with a pin, in the back of it; this keeps it together sufficiently for reading, and in this condition I lay it away, comforting myself, that when I have read those prints for one year, I will then fasten them all together, or get you to bind them, and so at the year's end have a handsome volume into the bargain.

I was very much pleased with your declared intention in your first number, "not to extort from Morality a sigh, or from Modesty a blush."

The consideration of these and other conveniencies will, I hope, induce your customers to give a decided preference to the present form of your publication, that so the NEW STAR, which has appeared to illumine the hemisphere of Newhampshire, may *fixedly continue*—and that by your attention thereto, and the aid of the *Sons of Science* and the Patrons of the *Useful Arts*, it may shine with encreasing lustre. HAMLET.

For the NEW STAR.

Messrs. PRINTERS,

MY neighbor had planted Potatoes, and *the same kind of seed*, on one and the same piece of ground, for many years; complained

plained that the encreaſe for two or three years had ſcarcely paid the labor, &c. I told him to plant ſomewhere elſe, or any how, to change the ſeed. The laſt year he did ſo—away went the old *dry blues* for a new ſort, called Mohocks, and the increaſe was prodigious.—If you think this may be a uſeful hint to change the crops on a piece of ground, but eſpecially for Farmers once in a few years to change their ſeed for ſuch crops, you are at liberty to make it public.

AGRICOLA.

Concord, May 1797.

From the *Farmer's Weekly Muſeum.*

To the LOVERS of CIDER.

WHAT would you give to deſtroy the whole race of the Caterpillar?—Give?—I would give more than I'll ſay—but it is impoſſible. I have tried experiments, until I am tired. Yes, you have tried flaming tow and lamp oil; you have ſhot their neſts to pieces, with your muſket, and pulled them down with your long-forked pole; and all this you have done, on rainy days, when the caterpillars were moſtly within their neſts—and you have found, to your mortification, that they would often repair their neſts the next day, or if you decreaſed the number for the preſent ſeaſon, they were, after all your pains, as numerous the next.

NOW MIND ME.

You have often obſerved that, at a certain time in the ſummer, the caterpillars appear to quit their neſts entirely, and even the trees, and wander over the fields and on the fences. This generally happens, the latter end of June, or the beginning of July. Be that as it may, when ever this happens, do you take the old dried neſt, break it open, and within it you will find a little pod, ſomewhat like the ſilkworm's cone; deſtroy that pod, for it contains the parent of the next year's race of caterpillars; which like the queen bee, produces the whole family. This muſt be done, ſoon after the caterpillar quits the neſt—for out of this pod comes a millar fly, who forms round and upon the ſmall branches of the apple, or wild cherry tree, the latter ſhe ſeems to prefer, a number of little cells, in which ſhe depoſits her eggs, and then covers them with a gluey ſubſtance, which effectually preſerves them, until the next ſpring—*hinc illius ortus.* Hence ſprings the caterpillar family.

Now let the farmers, in a town, or vicinity, agree to ſearch for the proper time, and

and effectually to deſtroy theſe pods, and my word for it, their neighbourhood ſhall be a land of Goſhen the next year.

U. UNDERHILL.

MORAL *REPOSITORY.*

IN many perſons a ſeriouſneſs, and ſenſe of awe, overſpread the imagination, whenever the idea of the Supreme Being *is preſented to their thoughts. This effect, which forms a conſiderable ſecurity againſt vice, is the conſequence not ſo much of reflection as of habit, being generated by the external expreſſions of reverence, which we uſe ourſelves, and obſerve in others, may be deſtroyed by cauſes oppoſite to theſe, and eſpecially by that familiar levity with which ſome learn to ſpeak of the* Deity, *of his attributes, providence, revelation, or worſhip.*

God has been pleaſed to forbid the vain mention of his name. Thou ſhalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain. *Now it is vain when it is uſeleſs; and it is uſeleſs, and needleſs, when it is neither likely nor intended to ſerve any good purpoſe; as when it flows from the lips idle and unmeaning, or is applied upon occaſions inconſiſtent with any conſiderations of religion or devotion, to expreſs our anger, our earneſtneſs, our courage, or our mirth; or indeed when it is uſed at all, except in acts of religion, or in ſerious and ſeaſonable diſcourſe upon religious ſubjects.*

VIRTUE.—A MORSEL.

MEN dare not, as bad as they are, appear open enemies to virtue: when, therefore, they perſecute virtue, they pretend to think it counterfeit, or elſe lay ſome crime to its charge.

PARNASSIAN RIVULET.

STANZAS,

Occaſioned by the decay of a Roſe.

HOW has thy beauty fled! this morn
I pluck'd thee bluſhing from the thorn;
On every leaf, and every ſtem,
The twinkling dew-drop form'd a gem,
And mingled with the colours bright,
Gave a mild pleaſure to the ſight.
Now all thy boaſtous tints decay,
Thy ſweet perfume has fled away;
No dew-drops now thy leaves adorn,
Or twinkle from the deject thorn;
But low reclines thy languid head,
And every ſweet and charm has fled.
See, pictured here, Man's frail eſtate!
Such are the forms that on us wait:
In playful Infancy, awhile,
And ruddy Youthfulneſs, to ſmile;
In Manhood's boiſterous joys engage,
And periſh in the wants of Age.

EPITAPH,

in Guilford Church yard.

Reader paſs on, nor waſte your time
On ſad biography and bitter rhyme;
For what I am this cumb'rous clay inſures,
And what I was, is no affair of yours.

[GOOD.]

BANQUET of COMUS.

A Good-hearted ſoul having lent a comrade a ſmall matter, ſpoke to him about it a long time after it ought to have been repaid. Thoſe two guineas, Tom, I lent you, ought to be paid me; you know I am in great diſtreſs. Don't talk to me about it, ſays the other; for, by heavens, I will take care to pay you this week, *in ſome ſhape or other.* You will oblige me, replied the creditor; *and pray let it be as much in the ſhape of two guineas as poſſible.*

ORIGINAL ANECDOTE
OF *PETER PORCUPINE: alias,* WM. COBBET, Editor of PORCUPINE'S GAZETTE, in Philadelphia.

A gentleman wiſhing to ridicule the celebrated Peter, lately went to his ſtore, and enquired whether he had *Porcupine's quills* for ſale? The Britiſh wag replying in the affirmative, took from the ſhelf a bundle of common writing quills, and tendered them to the gentleman.—The would-be wit immediately took the quills and paid for them; then, archly looking at Peter, enquired again whether they were *Porcupine's* quills? "O no," replied the corporal, "they *were* indeed ſo once, but they are *gooſe* quills now."

ANECDOTE
Of the preſent Pope.

John Angelo Braſchi, who has taken the name of Pius VI. is the ſon of a poor man in Cezena. Poſſeſſed of an elegant figure and a very handſome face, he had the good fortune to attract the attention of cardinal Roſſo of Naples, who received him into his palace, & treated him with nearly paternal affection. After Roſſo's death, the miſtreſs of cardinal Rezzonico falling in love with him, took him under her protection; ſhe procured him the place of grand treaſurer, and ſhortly afterwards a cardinal's hat. When he went to thank Ganganelli, the latter told him freely, "I have made you a cardinal, becauſe I could not give the hat to a man whoſe honeſty and probity were known, and from your character I have not the leaſt doubt of your becoming my ſucceſſor."

Braſchi is a man of no great abilities: he talks a great deal; the tone of his voice is agreeable, and he is graceful in company——Although very old, he ſtill retains the marks of that beauty which raiſed him from nothing to the pontifical chair.